

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 23, 29 and 31 are amended and claims 25 and 28 are canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, claims 1-23, 26 and 29-32 are pending in this application.

An Information Disclosure Statement is filed herewith. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references by returning an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 to the Applicant.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-22 and 32 and the indication that claims 29 and 31 include allowable subject matter. Claims 29 and 31 are rewritten in independent form, and thus should be allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claim 28 and is respectfully traversed with respect to claim 26.

Claim 26 depends from claim 23, which is amended to recite the two receptacles. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 26 is not indefinite and fully complies with 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,338,604 to Van Buren. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 23 is amended to positively recite two receptacles in combination with a coupling member. Although Van Buren generally discloses a coupling member 10, Van Buren does not disclose at least two receptacles each containing one of a cosmetic and a care substance, as recited in claim 23, and thus cannot disclose a coupling member for coupling the two receptacles together.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 is patentable over Van Buren. Claim 26 is patentable over Van Buren at least in view of the patentability of claim 23 from

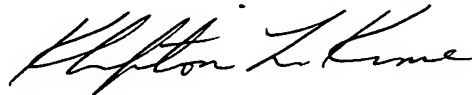
which it depends, as well as for the additional features it recites. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 25 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,945,617 to Callery. This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 25 and 28. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-23, 26 and 29-32 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Information Disclosure Statement

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